

# Genital Herpes

Genital Herpes is a sexually transmitted disease (STD) caused by herpes virus type II. Herpes virus type I causes “cold sores” or “fever blisters” on the mouth but can cause lesions in the genital area. Herpes II can also be spread from mother to baby at the time of delivery.

## *Symptoms*

*Usually appear two days to three weeks after infection.*

- *Painful blisters on genitalia*
- *Fever and flu like symptoms (usually with the first outbreak)*
- *Many people have no symptoms*
- *Blisters will go away in 1 – 3 weeks regardless of treatment*

**SE STD Clinic**

**DC General Health Campus, Bldg. #8**

**19th & Mass. Ave., SE**

**Washington, DC 20003**

**Clinic Hours: 8:15 a.m.–3:15 p.m.**

**Monday – Friday**

**202-698-4050**

## Is there treatment for Herpes?

- ◆ The most commonly used medication is Acyclovir (Zovirax).
- ◆ Other medications in this group are Famciclovir (Famvir) or Valacyclovir (Valtrex).
- ◆ Treatment is used during an outbreak to shorten the illness. However, it is not curative and future outbreaks are common.

## How can I prevent from getting herpes?

- ◆ Avoid unprotected sex. Always use condoms. However, condoms do not totally prevent transmission of herpes.
- ◆ Avoid infection by being monogamous, having only one sex partner.